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ST. FAITH'S AND AYLSHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1956



RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. FAITH'S AND AYLSHAM

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Irene B.M. Green
M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)
together with
the
R E P O R T
of the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(H.S. Hawkins,
A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :

IRENE B.M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Surveyor
and Inspector under Petroleum Acts :

H.S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector :

W.R. FRYER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :

B.J. PALMER, CERT. S.I.B.

J. TOWNSEND, CERT. S.I.B.

E. PHILBIN, B.A., M.R.S.H. (from 30.7.56)

H.C. WATKIN, M.A.P.H.I. (to 15.7.56)

J.R. PARRY, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (to 19.2.56)

Assistant Surveyor :

D. BRADSHAW, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

Building Inspector :

L. R. HUMPHRIES (from 1.8.56)

Surveying Assistant :

W.G. CHASTNEY, A.I.B.E.

Acting Senior Clerk :

P.J. CHAPMAN

Clerical Staff :

MRS. M.A. SMITH

R.N. BARRETT

I.A. KIDD

J.N. WREN (from 12.3.56)

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)
for the
RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. FAITH'S AND AYLSHAM,
NORFOLK,
for the Year ending 31st December, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	93,005
Population (Census 1931)	25,648
" (" 1951)	37,623
" (Estimated mid-1956)	39,610
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census) ..	7,660
" " " " " (1951 ") ..	10,798
" " " " " (1956) ..	12,563
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1956	£315,504
Estimated Net Produce of Penny Rate	£1,301

The estimated mid-year population was 39,610 an increase of 430 since 1955.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The weather of 1956 could be described as very bad indeed. After a spell of severe cold with snow lying almost the whole of February, the spring was late, cold and dry. The summer was dull, cold and wet, with no settled holiday weather at all. The early winter was drier than usual but still dull and cool and the year ended with fog and snow after a short milder spell in early December.

To sum up, the local climate throughout 1956 concentrated on its most unpleasant features and scarcely relented at all during the whole twelve months.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total Males Females				St. Faith's & Aylsham		England & Wales
LIVE BIRTHS					1955	1956	1956
Legitimate	546	280	266	} Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	13.76	14.29	15.7
Illegitimate	20	11	9				
Total	566	291	275				
STILL BIRTHS							
Legitimate	15	7	8	} Rates per 1,000 live and still births	7.49	25.81	23.0
Illegitimate	-	-	-				
Total	15	7	8				
DEATHS							
Total	511	260	251	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.6	12.9	11.7
INFANT DEATHS							
Legitimate	7	4	3	} Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	22.27	17.67	23.8
Illegitimate	1	1	-				
Total	8	5	3				

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General :-

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-	2
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis.. .. .	-	2	2
3. Syphilitic Disease	3	-	3
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	4	6	10

									Males	Females	Total
11.	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	-	15
12.	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	7	7
13.	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	17	41
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	46	74
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	23	57
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	20
20.	Other Heart Disease .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	59	104
21.	Other Circulatory Disease .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	22	34
22.	Influenza . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
23.	Pneumonia . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	10	27
24.	Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	3	13
25.	Other Disease of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	5
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	-	5
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	26	50
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	-	6
34.	All Other Accidents .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	5	18
35.	Suicide .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1
36.	Homicide and Operations of War .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
All Causes									260	251	511

DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS, 1956

Age Groups	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-29	30-39	40-49	50-65	66-75	76-85	Over 85	Total
Totals	8	1	1	11	9	21	88	141	161	70	511

There were 511 deaths and 566 live births registered during the year, compared with 572 deaths and 539 live births in 1955. Still births amounted to 15 and there were 8 infant deaths.

The birth rate has risen from 13.76 in 1955 to 14.29 in 1956 and the crude death rate fallen from 14.6 to 12.9

The infant mortality rate has fallen to the low figure of 17.67 from 22.67 in 1955, compared with the national rate of 23.8.

After adjustment for age and sex the local birth rate becomes 15.43, only slightly below that for the whole country (15.7), and the adjusted death rate is 8.64 compared with the national figure of 11.7.

Considering that 38% of all deaths registered in the district occurred in chronic sick hospitals, the adjusted death rate is very low indeed.

There were 22 deaths (19 males, 3 females) between the ages of 1 and 40 compared with 15 in 1955 and half of these (all males) were due to accidents. It is gratifying to note that no school child died during the year and there was only one death of a pre-school child over a year, aged 1 year 11 months, from drowning.

The following tables summarise the causes of death in these young persons :-

Accidents

5 Road	(Males 24, 29, 29, 33 & 33)
2 Flying	(Males 20 and 23)
2 Drowning	(Males 1 and 17)
1 Farm	(Male 22)
1 Train	(Male 39)

All accidents are preventable and it is tragic to have to record the unnecessary loss of 11 young males, with so much of their lives before them. The monopoly of one sex in this finding is no doubt due in part to more hazardous occupations, but also to greater recklessness and less care for personal safety. This is a loss the community can ill afford.

Other Causes

Kidney disease (all forms)	5	(Males 18, 28, 35 & 35, Female 38)
Heart and circulatory disease	2	(Males 35 and 39)
Chronic nervous disease	2	(Male 27 and Female 34)
Liver disease	1	(Male 39)
Miliary Tuberculosis (associated with pregnancy)	1	(Female 21)

Again we have the greater preponderance of the male sex, recording 8 deaths to 3 female and although the figures are small, this finding does fit in with the picture of the male being the more vulnerable sex with greater wastage at all ages. At the present state of knowledge, the only one of these 11 premature deaths which was wholly preventable was the expectant mother with acute miliary tuberculosis, now a curable disease, but unfortunately not necessarily very easy to diagnose in the early stages. Incidentally, this is the first maternal death associated with childbirth in this district since 1953.

Infant Deaths

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

Ages						Males	Females	Total
1st day ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
1-7 days ..	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
1-4 weeks .	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
1-3 months	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
3-6 months	...	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
6-9 months	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
9-12 months	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-
Totals						<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

The infant deaths (8) all occurred in the first month of life, except the accidental drowning of one female child aged 5 months, and four of them happened in the first three days. The causes of death are summarised in the following table :-

Congenital defects	5	} Inevitable.
Prematurity	1	
Cerebral haemorrhage	1	Obstetrical - possibly preventable.
Accidental - drowning	1	Preventable.

Only the accidental death could be classed as wholly preventable, the others being due to causes either unknown, or at present outside our control.

Prematurity was reported in respect of 29 live births and, as all but one of these premature infants survived, their specialised care must have been very efficient. The low infant mortality rate (17.67) is another sign of the better handling of young infants which has been an encouraging feature of recent years.

Malignant Disease (including Cancer)

Malignant disease (including cancer) caused only 76 deaths in 1956 compared with 103 in 1955 and 100 in 1954. Lung cancer accounted for 15 of these cases, as against 22 in 1955 and all of these were males.

The ages at which the cancer was fatal is again reviewed as under :-

	40-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	Over 80	Total
Lung	-	5	4	6	-	15
Other sites	3	5	27	18	8	61

With regard to deaths from lung cancer between the ages of 51 and 60, although fewer than last year (5 compared with 15) it is to be regretted that even this number of men should have had their active working lives cut short by a preventable disease, while 4 other men have not lived to enjoy a long retirement. Assuming retirement at 65, the working years lost amount to 48, and as heavy smoking has been proved to be the commonest cause of lung cancer, this is a big price to pay for an unnecessary habit.

General

Heart and circulatory disease was again the commonest cause of death with 57 deaths from coronary thrombosis compared with 58 in 1955 and 49 in 1954.

There were 4 deaths from tuberculosis, 2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, but no deaths from any other notifiable infectious disease.

72.8% of all deaths were at ages over 65, 45.2% over 75 and 13.7% over 85. There were 8 deaths at 95 and 1 at 101.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	0-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	4	9	4	-	2	-	-	20
Whooping Cough	18	23	43	3	-	1	1	-	89
Measles	92	99	204	11	2	2	1	-	411
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	2	1	2	1	7	2	15
Dysentery	5	7	34	15	11	23	4	2	101
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	4
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Ophthalmia									
Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	4	2	7	1	1	6	7	-	28
Totals	121	135	301	35	19	40	24	4	679

There were 679 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, compared with 264 in 1955. The difference was almost wholly accounted for by an increase in Measles (411) and Whooping Cough (89).

Cases of other infectious disease amounted to 179 compared with 169 in 1955. The only variations as between one disease and another were, more food poisoning (28 cases compared with 11) and more pneumonia (15 cases against 8). Dysentery (101) was as prevalent as in 1955.

Scarlet Fever

Again there were 20 cases of scarlet fever notified, two being adults over 25, 13 schoolchildren and 5 children under school age. There were no admissions to hospital and no complications were reported.

Measles

Measles were more than usually prevalent throughout the year with a peak of 98 cases in July. Sprowston, Hellesdon and Recpham were the parishes most affected.

These three parishes appeared to have separate epidemics, Hellesdon in March and April, Sprowston in June and July and Recpham in September and October. Altogether cases occurred in 28 parishes, but in some of these the incidence was small.

Half of the cases were schoolchildren under 9 and nearly as many were under school age. 5 adults contracted the disease, and one of these was over 45.

No complications were reported and none were admitted to hospital.

Whooping Cough

89 cases of whooping cough were notified compared with 40 in 1955. The majority of these were under 9 years of age, and half of them under school age. No complications were reported and there were no admissions to hospital.

Diphtheria

Again no case of diphtheria was notified. It is now 6 years since a case appeared in an Annual Report of this district, a real triumph of preventive medicine.

Poliomyelitis

Only one case of poliomyelitis was notified (in October) and this was a boy of 7 at Hellesdon. It was paralytic in type but only the facial nerve was affected and he made a complete recovery after treatment at the Norwich Isolation Hospital. No contact with any known source of infection could be discovered and no further case occurred. The usual precautions were taken at the home and school.

Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

At the beginning of the year, the Ministry of Health offered vaccination against poliomyelitis to children between the ages of 2 and 9.

Parents were invited to register their children with the local health authority i.e. the Norfolk County Council. Registrations in the district showed an acceptance rate of about 32%.

Later on, in May and June, sufficient vaccine was available to vaccinate a certain number of registered children and those born in the months of March and October were chosen for the first batch. In this district of the children registered in 1956, a total of 149 were vaccinated during the year.

It was anticipated that larger supplies of vaccine would be available in 1957 to carry out the vaccination of the rest of those registered in 1956.

Encouraging reports from overseas give us reason to hope that this vaccine will give effective protection in most cases against the paralytic form of the disease. Experience in this country has shown that the vaccine as prepared and tested here is wholly safe.

Enteric Infections

No case of typhoid or paratyphoid occurred during the year.

Dysentery

Again in 1956 dysentery showed an unwelcome prevalence and 101 cases were notified, 40% of them being over the age of 15, 12 of pre-school age and the rest schoolchildren.

All the cases except 2 occurred in January, February and March and obviously were a prolongation of the epidemic which started in December 1955, described in last year's Annual Report. They were distributed as follows :-

Parish	January		February		March		Totals	
	Cases	House-holds	Cases	House-holds	Cases	House-holds	Cases	House-holds
Aylsham	2	2	4	1	-	-	6	3
Buxton	4	2	3	1	-	-	7	3
Coltishall	-	-	9	3	-	-	9	3
Felthorpe	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Hellesdon	3	2	4	1	1	1	8	4
Hevingham	-	-	30	10	4	1	34	11
Horsford	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	1
Horstead	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1
Marsham	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rackheath	6	2	3	1	-	-	9	3
St. Faiths	-	-	-	-	5	2	5	2
Salhouse	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Spixworth	4	3	3	1	-	-	7	4
Wroxham	6	3	-	-	-	-	6	3
Totals	29	17	59	19	11	5	99	41

The fact that 99 cases affected 41 households shows how much of a domestic infection dysentery is. It is rare indeed for a single case to occur in a family, even if the other positive cases are only contact carriers showing no clinical signs of illness. They are equally infectious, perhaps more so, as they are at no time confined to bed and need just as rigid control and rigorous treatment as the frank case.

If every member of the family strictly observed the fundamental rule of hand washing after using the toilet and before eating or handling food, the spread of dysentery and all other bowel infections would be impossible. It should be a matter of shame to be informed that several members of a family have acquired the infection, as it proves beyond doubt that the house itself and probably the food has been contaminated with the excretally polluted hands of some member of the family. A wash hand basin, hot water, soap and towel, readily accessible to the closet user should be the first requirement of any decent household.

All this is doubly vital where food is sold as in a restaurant, canteen or shop. The people at risk may amount to hundreds and such a source of infection may lead to a large outbreak in a very short space of time.

Food Poisoning

28 cases of food poisoning were notified compared with 11 in 1955. The organism concerned was salmonella typhimurium in every case. Only 2 cases were between the ages of 10 and 24, the rest were equally divided between the under 9's and over 25's.

These 28 cases affected 16 households in 8 parishes, the largest number were notified from Sprowston (5), Hellesdon (5), Reepham (5). In 9 cases, the cause was definitely proved to have been infected duck eggs, while in another 5, ducks and fowls were kept, though no actual infected bird was identified. In the other 14 cases the cause of the infection was never found and there appeared to be no connection between them, either from personal contact or a common foodstuff. In 8 households, only 1 case occurred and there was no spread to the rest of the family. In the other 8, multiple cases were found, in one, 4 out of 4 persons were infected.

Apart from the small groups associated with the duck eggs, the cases occurred sporadically throughout the year from February to November and could be described rather as increased prevalence than anything in the nature of an epidemic.

Prevention

Duck eggs and fowl droppings, rats and mice and some meat products are the commonest sources of this organism, while the human carrier as a food handler is a close competitor.

Those who eat duck eggs will always run the risk of this infection as only prolonged cooking will render them safe.

Duck and fowl handlers need to take care about contamination of their hands and should always wash carefully after handling eggs or the birds themselves.

Extermination of rats and mice and the protection of food from their forays is another essential procedure and the adequate cooking and storage of meat will cut off yet another dangerous source.

The food handler is a potent cause of all bowel infections, and careful and thorough hand washing is again the only real safeguard.

Health in this respect is, like peace, the reward of eternal vigilance.

Psittacosis

There has been an increased incidence of psittacosis recently in England and Wales but the reason for this is, as yet, unknown. Usually it is a disease of the parrot family, but it has been found to be carried from time to time by other feathered fowl such as ducks, turkeys and other poultry.

A case occurred at Aylsham in May, but it was not diagnosed until there was a second case in Norwich in early June. The contact between the cases, who were sisters, was of not more than 3 hours' duration in the early stage of the disease in the first case. Eighteen days later the second case took ill in Norwich with an atypical pneumonia. Her illness was protracted and was finally diagnosed as psittacosis.

Extensive investigations of the environment and animal contacts of the Aylsham patient revealed no obvious source of infection. Day old chicks had been purchased by her in April and reared successfully without loss. It was impossible without slaughtering the whole flock to prove whether or not any of them were psittacosis carriers and all of them seemed to be healthy birds. The origin of the disease, therefore, still remains a mystery.

Both cases recovered completely and no further cases were reported.

This incident shows the value of close co-operation between public health departments in this kind of investigation. All relevant information was exchanged as soon as received and very valuable help was given by the staff of the Virus Research Laboratory at Colindale.

All general practitioners in the area were notified of the position and asked to watch for further cases.

The noteworthy fact about this occurrence was that one human case infected another. Although this is not unknown, the usual sequence of events is that human cases contract the disease from contact with infected birds. It does emphasise the importance of regarding all pneumonia as infectious and of taking adequate preventive measures.

TUBERCULOSIS

Mortality

Age Periods	Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	1
25 - 34	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	1
45 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 & over	2	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	-	-	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Pulmonary	Rate	Non-Pulmonary	Rate
County of Norfolk	21	0.05	3	0.008
St. Faith's & Aylsham	2	0.05	2	0.05
England & Wales	4,849	0.11	519	0.01

There were four deaths registered as being due to tuberculosis, 2 male pulmonary and 2 female non-pulmonary. This is compared with 1 registered pulmonary death in 1955.

It will be seen from the table that the pulmonary mortality rate for the district is the same as the County rate and about half that for the whole country.

The two non-pulmonary deaths were both due to miliary tuberculosis, which is a generalised form of the disease, rapidly fatal unless diagnosed early and treated with appropriate antibiotics. This is an uncommon condition now-a-days and Xray examination often shows no recognisable signs until a late stage of the disease. Both of these facts tend to obscure and delay the diagnosis, which may only be made post mortem.

These 2 cases serve as a warning that although tuberculosis is definitely on the way out, rapidly fatal cases can still occur and the disease must be borne in mind in all cases of undiagnosed protracted generalised illness.

Incidence

New Cases

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	1	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1	1	-	-
15 - 24	2	4	-	1
25 - 34	1	5	1	1
35 - 44	1	1	-	1
45 - 54	2	-	-	1
55 - 64	5	-	-	-
65 & over	2	1	-	-
Totals	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1956 :-

Type of case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	134	96	230
Non-Respiratory	21	39	60
Totals	<u>155</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>290</u>

	Respiratory	Rate	Non-Respiratory	Rate
County of Norfolk	149	0.39	39	0.10
St. Faith's and Aylsham .	27	0.68	3	0.076

There were 27 new cases of pulmonary type notified, 15 male and 12 female, which is 8 more than in 1955. This is almost double the rate for the County as a whole. Only one third of the Male cases were under 35 and 7 of them were over 55, compared with the female incidence of 9 cases under 35 and only 3 over that age.

This conforms to the pattern of recent years that most new notifications come from younger women and older men.

The higher incidence in this district may well be due to good and accessible diagnostic facilities. It is relatively easy for doctors to have expert investigation at the Chest Clinic of any case which gives them the slightest suspicion of tuberculosis, while the routine chest X-ray in pregnancy is another source of the early case.

Non-pulmonary disease was notified in 5 cases, compared with 7 in 1955. Two of these were of the miliary type as noted above, and the others were disease of the neck glands in two cases and of the spine in the other.

Treatment

The number of admissions to Sanatoria were as follows :-

	Male	Female	Total
1947	3	2	5
1948	3	3	6
1949	6	4	10
1950	9	9	18
1951	14	16	30
1952	19	23	42
1953	14	15	29
1954	13	7	20
1955	10	10	20
1956	16	12	28

The average length of stay in hospital was 6 months.

As there were 27 new cases and 28 hospital admissions it appears that there are adequate hospital beds in the area.

Prevention

All young susceptible contacts of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis are offered B.C.G. vaccination. In 1956, 113 such contacts were vaccinated in the County of Norfolk.

Vaccination of School Leavers

No arrangements were made for the vaccination of school leavers with B.C.G. during 1956. This was due to the decision, following a recommendation by the Chest Physicians, to vaccinate in the 14th year instead of the 13th as previously.

It is to be hoped that this excellent preventive measure will be offered to all school leavers in the district when the scheme is resumed in 1957.

Diagnosis

No scheme for routine tuberculin testing of school entrants has yet been started. This would be a most valuable diagnostic procedure. Now that all milk supplies are either T.T. or pasteurised, 5 year old children found to be positive would indicate that an infectious human case existed within the family or close contacts of the household. Unknown cases could then be discovered at an early stage and treated before they spread further infection.

The routine testing of a whole school in a parish where the incidence of tuberculosis is above average is another useful procedure and it is planned to carry out such a scheme at Foulsham school early in 1957.

Mass Miniature Radiography Unit

Unfortunately, no public sessions of the Mass Radiography Unit were held in either Norwich or this rural district during 1956 owing to the Unit's absence in other parts of its area.

General comment

Although more cases and more deaths have been notified this year than last, the general position with regard to the conquest of this once dread disease remains good.

The reservoir amongst the elderly of long standing cases is depleted each year and modern treatment is preventing additions to their ranks. If we can offer protection to the school leaver, and, which is more important, persuade his parents to accept it for him, we can reduce the susceptibility of the young worker to existing disease at his place of work.

If we can get the worker and housewife to accept routine chest X-rays as a measure of ordinary procedure, we can pick up the early case and treat it with the minimum loss of working time and the best possible result. In particular, we need to find some magnet which will draw the older men with or without a cough to the Radiography Unit as they are the main source of active tuberculous disease and incidentally, lung cancer.

We shall finally abolish tuberculosis only when we deserve to do so, that is, when the people themselves give their willing co-operation to those who could cure and would prevent it.

GENERAL SICKNESS

A large rise in the number of new sickness returns occurred in the first week of January with a further rise to a peak in the middle of February. The rates then fell steeply to reach an average level by the first week in April.

This seasonal rise happened rather later in the year than usual and was due to widespread respiratory infection, some of which was proved bacteriologically to be Virus A influenza. Fortunately, the disease was of a mild type and no deaths were reported from this cause. There was an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia about the same time, but most of these were people of advanced age many of whom were in chronic sick hospitals.

The rates were steady for the rest of the year except for a moderate rise in the middle of November. The numbers then fell steeply to reach a figure which was about average for the end of December.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS 1938 to 1955

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

Two herds were reported as being infected with tuberculosis during the year, one at Ringland and one at Horsford.

As all milk except T.T. in the district is now compulsorily pasteurised, it was not necessary to impose restrictions on either herd.

In one herd the veterinary inspector found a cow suffering from generalised tuberculosis and this was slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. Subsequent group samples from the rest of the herd were negative.

In the second herd, no infected animal was detected by the veterinary inspector, but a cow had been sold for slaughter between the time of the taking of the bulk sample and the veterinary inspection and this was assumed to have been the cause of the infection. Group samples from the rest of the herd were found to be negative.

The following table shows the number of positive bulk samples found in the last 5 years.

No. of herds found to be infected

1956	2
1955	2
1954	3
1953	3
1952	1

Anthrax Order 1938

There were 6 confirmed cases of Anthrax reported in 1956 compared with 3 in 1955. They were 5 cows and one pig. Five notices were received in respect of 3 pigs, one cow and a bullock but the disease was not confirmed in any of these.

The following table shows the incidence in the last 5 years :-

	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Cattle	5	2	-	-	8
Pigs	1	1	-	1	1

All six cases occurred between the end of January and the end of February and, although not absolutely proven, they were suspected of being due to a consignment of infected feeding stuff which was being sold in the district at that time. It is well known that bone meal is frequently infected with anthrax spores through raw materials imported from the Far East and unless sterilised before being mixed into feeding stuffs may constitute a great danger to livestock and to humans who may inadvertently handle an infected carcase.

Compulsory sterilisation of all imported bone meal whether for fertiliser or feeding stuff is surely a statutory requirement which is long overdue.

HOUSING

	1956	1955	1954
Waiting List			
Applications at 31st December	528	562	677
Analysis of Waiting List			
Size of family } Families with 2 or less children	474	513	616
family } Families with 3 or more children	54	49	61
Type of family } Agricultural workers	94	101	116
family } Others	434	461	561
Local Authority Houses			
Position at 31st December			
Pre-war	564	564	564
Post-war	1,079	1,032	966
Total	<u>1,643</u>	<u>1,596</u>	<u>1,530</u>
Total Houses Completed during year			
Local Authority Dwellings	47	66	84
Private Dwellings	432	353	283
Ex-Government Camps			
No. of families occupying these Camps at 31st December	0	14	35
No. of applicants housed in Camps from waiting list during the year	0	0	0

There was a further reduction in the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council houses, 528 compared with 562 on 31st December, 1955. The Council completed 47 new houses, and 432 were erected by private enterprise, the figures for 1955 being 66 and 353 respectively. In addition a further 370 private houses were under construction on 31st December, 1956.

54 of the families waiting for Council houses had 3 or more children and 94 of the total were classified as agricultural workers.

Ex-Government Camps

It is a real pleasure to report that 1956 saw the closure of the last hutment in the district. Half of the 14 still occupied in 1955 were rehoused by Norwich Corporation and the rest by this Council.

The human history of the occupation of these ex-government camps would make a most interesting saga. On the credit side, we can put the provision of many hundreds of dwellings, not immediately available just after the war, where families were able to live together without having to share any of the essential appliances, as self contained units with many of the amenities, still not accessible to many who live in old fashioned property, or remote parts or both. There was main water, sewerage and, in most cases, electricity. Best of all, for the children there was space, air and safe freedom.

The debit side was the depressing nature of the structures themselves, the dampness from condensation and the poor insulation which gave stifling heat in summer and shivering cold in winter.

On balance, the occupants gained more than they lost but some of them had to be there far too long and standards of living, possibly not very high to begin with, tended to deteriorate rapidly under conditions which did little to stimulate housepride.

Health statistics of this camp population have been no worse than those of the rest of the community and my impression is that the young children in particular actually benefited from the safe playing space around their homes, often much safer than the busy traffic laden roads where they now live.

The most heartening result of the re-housing of some of the lowest standard families has been their good reaction to better environment. At all levels of society there is a strong tendency to "keep up with the Jones's" and the force of public opinion is a great stimulus to better behaviour of all kinds.

Sometimes housing committees are reluctant to re-house until standards improve and our experience with some of these families shows that a better house will often work an unexpected miracle and is always worth a trial.

Improvement of Older Houses

In 1956, 40 property owners applied for improvement grants and 28 of these were granted, 13 refused, while 5 were under consideration at the end of the year. Work was completed in 21 cases.

This is less than in 1955, when 41 grants were approved, but it represents a fair proportion of modernisation of the sound but older property of the district.

Although the total of these grants amounts to £8,936 for 12 months it is still the cheapest method of improving the housing standards of many members of the population. New modern houses for these 28 families could not be built for 5 times this sum.

New Building.

With 47 Council houses and 432 private dwellings, a record total of 479 new units of accommodation were completed for occupation during 1956, this compares with 419 in 1955, and 367 in 1954. In addition, 370 new private dwellings were under construction at the end of the year.

Slum Clearance

In last year's Annual Report I was able to indicate that a real beginning had been made with slum clearance and I am glad to report further progress in 1956.

The two parishes of Aylsham and Reepham were surveyed by the Sub-Committee and over 100 premises inspected. Special meetings were held for the hearing of representations. The worst of this property was dealt with by demolition order, while in a few cases undertakings not to re-let were accepted. Much property previously condemned was vacated during the year and nine were actually demolished.

One of the problems facing the Sub-Committee was the action to be taken when old people were found in substandard property and were very unwilling to leave it. Many had lived in the same house all their married lives.

I feel that there is an urgent need for more Council bungalows suitable for elderly people so that they can be moved into them earlier in life before the actual removal is more than they can face, with advanced age and infirmity. The purchase and renovation of sound but old-fashioned cottages would further assist in this matter, I think the Council would be well-advised to consider it.

The most vital consideration however, is the occupation of slum property by families with young children. They should always be given top priority in re-housing for the sake of the children's health.

With present progress the bulk of the worst property should be dealt with within the suggested 5 years.

Full details of houses dealt with are given in the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

Contract No. 1 of Stage I of the Western Area Water Supply Scheme, comprising the provision of headworks and the laying of water mains in the parishes of Cawston, Salle and part of Reepham at a cost of approximately £45,000, was commenced in March, and was 50% complete by the end of the year.

Contract No. 2 of this Scheme for the laying of water mains in the parishes of Booton and Reepham, in the sum of nearly £20,000, was approved by the Ministry and work commenced towards the end of the year.

The final contract for this Scheme - the erection of a reinforced concrete water tower at Salle costing over £20,000 - was approved by the Ministry and work was expected to start early in 1957.

A small extension of the water main at Wood Dalling, costing over £500, was carried out and a further extension at Felthorpe, costing £1,600 was commenced in September.

Approval was given by the Ministry to the Council acquiring the water supply installation at the disused Oulton Airfield which already supplies a number of properties in Blickling and Oulton. The Council propose to extend the system to supply further parts of these villages.

SEWERAGE

All sewer laying in connection with the Sewerage Scheme for the eastern part of Sprowston was completed and part of the scheme was actually operating by the end of the year. The complete scheme was expected to be in operation early in 1957.

During the year the Norwich Corporation were authorised by the Ministry to commence work on part of the City's North Western Intercepting Sewer which, on completion, would enable properties in the western part of Hellesdon to have main sewerage. The Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a detailed scheme for the sewerage of this area.

The Ministry approved a Contract of over £51,000 for Stage I of the Reepham Sewerage Scheme, and work on the construction of the sewage disposal works commenced in July. The contract was 25% complete by the end of the year. Actual laying of sewers in Reepham was to commence early in 1957.

A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for the hamlet of Lenwade, Great Witchingham, was submitted to the Ministry and a local investigation had been arranged for early 1957.

Authority was given by the Council for submission to the Ministry of a Sewerage Scheme for the parishes of Belaugh, Coltishall, Horstead and Wroxham.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sect. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	58	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	140	49	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	44	-	-	-
Totals...	<u>242</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Cases in which defects were found

	No. of cases in which defects were found		Referred	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences - Insufficient	1	1	-	-

Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel, making etc. ...	36	-
Cosagues, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	7	-
Totals ...	<u>43</u>	<u>-</u>

SOCIAL HEALTH

Welfare of the Elderly

Action by Local Authority

The living conditions of many of the older members of the community have been greatly improved by better housing. The Council's plan to build old people's bungalows has paid good dividends in the shape of the health and happiness of their occupants. The projected grouped bungalows with a Warden's house attached is a further advance in care within the community.

While a certain number of old folk would cling to worn out and inconvenient property because of their long association with it, when moved to better premises few would return to their old slums.

The town of Aylsham in particular has become a haven for the elderly, with pleasant bungalows grouped together in close proximity to the site for the permanent club room to be built in 1957. The housepride of the women and the garden pride of the men shows both vigour and self respect.

When shielded from the spectre of loneliness by congenial surroundings, age shows all the nature contentment of an Indian Summer.

Voluntary Action

One new old people's Club has been started at Ringland, bringing the total for the district to 21. The times and places of meeting are as follows :-

Aylsham	Forester's Clubroom	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Buxton & Lamas	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		(Alternate)		
Old Catton	Parish Hall	2nd Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		in month		
Cawston	Memorial Institute	Friday	2.30 - 4.30	p.m.
Coltishall	Central Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Drayton	Village Hall	Wednesday	3 - 5	p.m.
		(Alternate)		
St. Faith's	Church Hall	Wednesday	3 - 5	p.m.
Foulsham	Frost Hall	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Hainford	Village Hall	Tuesday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Hellesdon	Speedway Clubroom	Friday	3 - 5	p.m.
Horsford	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Marsham	Reading Room, High St.	Tuesday	2.45 - 5	p.m.
Oulton	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		(Alternate)		
Reepham	Sun Hall	Friday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Ringland	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday	2.30 - 4	p.m.
		in month		
Salhouse	Women's Institute Hut	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		(except 2nd Thursday		
		in month)		
Spixworth	Social Hall	Wednesday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		(1st & 3rd in month		
		except August)		
Sprowston	Toc H Hut,			
	Recreation Ground Road	Thursday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Swannington	The Rectory	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30	p.m.
Gt. Witchingham	The Bridge Clubroom	4th Thursday		
		in month	2.30 - 5	p.m.
Wroxham	Horse Shoes Hotel	Tuesday	2.30 - 5	p.m.
		(Alternate)		

This shows a very large amount of activity for the benefit of old people. Taking 50 as an average Club membership, this table gives an encouraging picture of a large happy group of over 1,000 elderly folk.

There are now few parishes without a Club where there are sufficient members to warrant one.

Welfare of the Physically Handicapped.

Action by Local Authority - Housing

The life of the handicapped can be improved greatly by suitable housing e.g. bungalows for the lame, or by the modification of existing premises, as in the provision of ramps, the widening of doors or the provision of French windows opening into a garden or on to a verandah. A wheel chair existence needs maximum freedom of movement for the chair if "confinement to barracks" is not to be the rule for the disabled person, while space for the garage for a motor chair is another necessity in many cases.

Voluntary Action.

During the year, a District Committee was formed of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped, two members being also members of the Public Health Committee.

In the district, 126 people were registered as disabled with the Norfolk County Council and of this number some 50 odd were in need of social services of various kinds.

Parties and outings were arranged for those whose disablement prevented them from taking part in normal social life and many more were planned for 1957.

This is yet another voluntary movement for the happiness and well being of those who would otherwise be lonely and socially isolated. It is hoped that as happy and lively a family group will develop amongst the disabled as already exists in our old people's clubs.

General Comment

A district can be said to be fortunate indeed when it contains so many competent people with kind hearts who are prepared to serve their fellows in these valuable ways.

Utopia will never come from statutory action alone, voluntary service will always be needed to smooth the path and lighten the load.

COUNTY SERVICES

The following is a complete list of Infant Welfare Centres and distribution points for National Welfare Foods:-

COUNTY SERVICES

Parish	Where held	Day of Month	Time	Address from Where National Welfare Foods are obtainable. (Monday to Friday, unless otherwise stated)
* Aylsham	Ian Sears Clinic	First Friday every month	2 - 4	Mr. G.R. Oke, 14, Market Place. Messrs. Page Ltd., Market Place.
* Buxton	Reading Room	Second Tuesday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Ayden, Mill Street. Nurse Woods, Brook Street.
* Cawston	Memorial Institute	First Tuesday every month	2 - 4	Post Office Stores, High Street.
* Coltishall	Church Room	First Wednesday every month	2 - 4	Messrs. Roys Ltd., The Stores.
Drayton	Village Hall	Last Monday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Squire, The Stores.
Felthorpe				Messrs. Carter & Potter, Post Office Stores.
* Foulsham	Nurse's House	Last Wednesday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Hamilton, The Stores. Nurse Bryan, Guist Road.
* Hainford	Parish Hall	First Thursday every month	2 - 4	Post Office Stores.
Hellesdon	Speedway Clubroom	First & third Mondays every month	2 - 4	Mr. Youngman, 79, Reepham Road. Mr. Wightman, 165, Reepham Road. Mr. Palmer, County Stores, Drayton Wood Road.
Hevingham				Mr. Elridge, Town Street. (Tuesdays 2 - 5 p.m.)
* Horsham St. Faith	Mission Room	Last Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Whitbread, The Stores, Newton St. Faith. Mrs. Williamson, Swan Street.

Parish	Where held	Day of Month	Time	Address from Where National Welfare Foods are obtainable. (Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated)
* Horsham St. Faith	R.A.F. Station (attended by R.A.F. Medical Officer)	First & third Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Hidden, 8, Dowding Road.
Horsford	Parish Hall	Second Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Annison, The Stores.
Marsham				Mrs. Hannell, The Stores, Cromer Road.
Rackheath				Mr. Gaze, Post Office.
Reepham	Bircham Institute	Second Friday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Hardiment, Market Place.
Salhouse	Village Hall	Last Wednesday every month	2 - 4	Mr. Coe, Post Office Stores.
* Spixworth	Social Hall	Third Thursday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Giles, The Stores, Park Road. Mr. Grapes, 102, Crostwick Lane.
Sprowston	St. Cuthbert's Church Hall	Every Friday	2 - 4	Mr. Grigg, 199, Wroxham Road.
Swannington				Miss Parker, Post Office.
Taverham				Mrs. Buck, Post Office.
* Great Witchingham	Memorial Hall	Second Monday every month	2 - 4	Mrs. Rowlands, Bridge Stores.
Wroxham	Church Hall	First Wednesday every other month, alternating with Hoveton.	2 - 4	Messrs. Roys Ltd. Miss Woods, Bridge Stores.

* Denotes Centre where a Medical Officer attends only occasionally.

GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES

The County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district.

In addition to the headquarters at :-

Local Health Office, Area 4,
Aspland Road,
Riverside Road,
Norwich

there is the following contact point where members of the public can obtain advice :-

Bircham Institute,
Reepham.

Wednesday afternoons, 3.30 - 4 p.m.

GENERAL SURVEY

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year.

In spite of adverse weather conditions the death rate even amongst the elderly has remained low. Infectious disease has not been very prevalent, apart from one widespread epidemic of mild respiratory disease with low mortality.

Infants and young people have fared well, except for some preventable accidental deaths in young males.

Voluntary action has widened its scope to bring interest and social betterment to yet another section of the community.

Preventive vaccination has begun for yet another infectious illness, namely poliomyelitis.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I should like to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their unfailing support and my appreciation of the willing and enthusiastic co-operation of the staff.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) IRENE B.M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

The
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
(H.S. Hawkins
A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)
for the year 1956

I have the honour of presenting the following report.

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	626
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,275
Inspections of moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	61
Visits to Infectious disease cases	...	...	...	...	1,247
Rooms disinfected	..	...	...	...	10
Inspections of Dairies	..	...	...	...	20
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1,727
Inspections of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	291
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections in connection with Scavenging scheme	...	...	...	...	637
Visits in connection with sewer connections, Sewerage and Water supply	..	...	...	...	2,272
Visits for taking samples of water	...	...	...	...	317
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	..	...	...	...	44
Other visits interviewing Owners, etc	..	...	...	...	648
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	3,790
Total					<u>13,018</u>

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Again the inspection of meat demanded the devotion of considerable proportions of the Inspectors' time. There are Fourteen slaughterhouses in the district and at four a very considerable quantity of meat is prepared for sale by wholesale.

During the year, 1,727 visits were made to slaughterhouses and 57,232 carcasses were inspected.

Unfortunately at the four slaughterhouses for the wholesale market slaughter continues well into the night and on Saturdays and Sundays and, in spite of 1,289 hours overtime being worked, it was found impossible to inspect all the carcasses slaughtered and the number not inspected forms an imposing total of 33,249. It is most disappointing to have to make

such an admission after so much time and effort have been devoted to this work and there appears to be no indication of the position improving, in fact the turnover at the largest slaughterhouse is increasing. At times the inspectors have been working up to as late as 9 p.m. and even then slaughtering has been continued. It must be appreciated that meat inspection involves responsibility and becomes exacting work, particularly when of necessity it must be carried out at the end of the day.

Under existing conditions complete inspection is quite beyond the capacity of the staff. In this district there is very much more than the average proportion of slaughtering, and the provision of an adequate staff to ensure complete inspection would prove to be a heavy commitment. A solution to the problem could be more centralisation, and control of the hours, of slaughtering; but no doubt justifiable objections could be raised to such a solution as, after all, slaughterhouse proprietors are faced with a demand which must be met.

So much attention has had to be devoted to meat inspection that inspections of retail shops and other food premises has been somewhat restricted. The number of inspections of premises where food is sold or prepared is 311.

The following table gives particulars of the carcasses inspected and those found to be affected with disease. The total weight of meat condemned was 46 tons 13 cwts. and 37 lbs.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (If known)	8,536		17,844	7,467	56,631
Number inspected	6,145	224	3,203	5,288	42,371
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis &</u> <u>Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	14	12	120
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,073	69	14	176	4,406
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.49%	33.49%	0.87%	3.56%	10.69%

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	18	8	3	-	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	405	43	2	-	622
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.88%	22.77%	0.16%	-	1.48%

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	54	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	54	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In addition the following other foods were condemned :-

603 tins of food. 217½lbs. of cheese. 327lbs. of Bacon.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The following are the numbers and types of Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Act :-

Sausage making	27
Meat products	17
Sale of Ice Cream	103

During the year 21 samples of Ice Cream were taken for examination and of these 19 were not decolourised at the end of 4 hours and passed the test; 1 was decolourised in 4 hours and the other was decolourised at the end of half an hour.

MILK AND DAIRIES, REGULATIONS

The number of Dairies registered is 14.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS REGULATIONS

The following Licences were granted during the year :-

Pasteurised

(a) Dealers Licences	...	...	...	...	48
(b) Dealers Supplementary Licences	...				8

Tuberculin Tested

(a) Dealers Licences	...	...	...	...	24
(b) Dealers Supplementary Licences	...				5

The County Council issued licences in respect of 3 Pasteurising plants in the district.

HOUSING

Progress was made in the Slum Clearance programme during the year. The Sub-Committee inspected 104 houses in the parishes of Aylsham and Reepham.

The following is a Summary of the work done :-

Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were quashed on appeal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings not to relet were accepted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of houses repaired after Undertakings were given	...								3
Number of houses included in proposed Clearance Areas	...								44
Number of condemned houses vacated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of houses still under consideration at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54

At the end of the year there were 54 condemned houses still occupied.

Applications for Improvement Grants in respect of 40 houses were received and grants amounting to £8,936.10. 0. were authorised in respect of 28 houses. Grants were not made in respect of 13 houses which did not comply with the required standard, and applications in respect of 5 houses were still under consideration at the end of the year. Improvements were completed at 21 houses.

The number of new houses completed in the district was 479, and of these 47 were Council houses. A further 370 houses were in course of erection at the end of the year.

During the year 33 Licences to station and use caravans as dwellings were issued.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year water mains were extended in the parishes of Felthorpe and Wood Dalling. At Felthorpe the length of new main was 750 lineal yards and provided a supply to the main centre of the village. The length of mains at Wood Dalling was 321 lineal yards and provided a supply to the School and makes provision for supplying three farms.

In March commencement was made on Stage I of the Western Area Water Supply Scheme which includes the provision of Head works, Storage reservoir and mains to supply the parishes of Booton, Cawston, Reepham and Salle. Good progress had been made and 15,000 yards of mains had been laid by the end of the year.

Samples of water for examination are taken regularly from the undertakings operated by the Council and the Council Housing Estates, while samples from other sources are taken as considered to be necessary. Altogether 317 samples of water were taken during the year. There were not any cases of shortage of water found or reported during the year.

SEWERAGE

Except for completion of installation of machinery and electricity at three pumping stations, the sewerage scheme for Sprowston was completed by the end of the year. The main pumping station was put into operation in October and by the end of the year 236 properties had been connected to the sewer.

At Reepham work on the new sewerage scheme was commenced in June and by the end of the year good progress had been made in the construction of the sewage disposal works and the laying of the sewers was about to be commenced.

SCAVENGING

The normal scavenging service consists of the collection of house refuse weekly in 31 parishes and fortnightly in 17 parishes. There is also a weekly collection of night soil throughout the district with a twice weekly collection where there is a special need. In addition there is a cesspool emptying service available for which a charge is made, but a contribution is also made out of the rates.

The service demands the daily use of 5 vehicles for house refuse collection, 4 for night soil collection and 4 cesspool emptiers. In addition there are 3 spare vehicles for use as needed. The number of workmen employed is 31.

The normal service was maintained until November, when there was the need and duty to reduce the consumption of petrol, and in fact the supply of this was restricted. In these circumstances it was impossible to maintain the full service and however regrettable, it was a situation that had to be met, but with the minimum risk of danger to public health.

It was considered that the maintenance of water supplies and sewerage, the collection of night soil and cesspool emptying had priority and that the 'least evil' was a reduction in the collection of house refuse. Accordingly the collection of house refuse was restricted to a fortnightly collection throughout the district. Many and very strong complaints were quickly received. It was a regrettable circumstance but perhaps did draw some attention to the value of this and other services provided and maintained by a local authority, which appears to be not fully realised until they are restricted.

Although sewers have recently been provided in Aylsham and the sewerage of part of Sprowston was almost completed, there was no falling off of the demand for the cesspool emptying service and during the year 8,592 loads were removed from cesspools compared with 8,507 loads for the previous year.

BUILDING BYELAWS

During the year 1,004 plans of proposed buildings were submitted. In addition to the examination of the plans, frequent inspections are made of the buildings during erection.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 20 bakehouses in the district. It was not necessary to serve any notices in connection with these premises.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year the Rat-catcher visited 5,416 premises and treated 633 premises where rats and mice were found. The number of reports received of infestation was 132. No case of serious infestation was found and there was no need for the exercise of statutory powers.

In conclusion, I should again like to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health for their support and also to express my appreciation to all members of the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H.S. HAWKINS.

